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NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Knockin' back a Mus Knuckle with Wolfcop

Poster for the Sask.-made movie even features locally brewed beer PAGE 2

The beamline scientist and the basketball star

Day 3 of CBC Future 40 reveals spans a range of platforms PAGE 3

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It was a battle of the shoes on Tuesday at the legislature as Finance Minister Ken Krawetz and NDP finance critic Trent Wotherspoon displayed footwear in advance of Wednesday's budget announcement. Wotherspoon showed media see-through shoes to represent a demand for more transparency from the government. Krawetz, inset, who will wear shoes that had belonged to his late father, said their snug fit symbolizes the tight budget. MARCO VIGLIOTTI/METRO

Contentious audit focus of budget do-si-do

If the transparent shoe fits ... Sask. Party, opposition NDP use shoe symbolism to champion, criticize ahead of announcement

MARCO VIGLIOTTI
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The Saskatchewan Party government needs to put forward a "transparent" budget based on solid accounting figures after being reprimanded by the provincial auditor for "pervasive" errors, the opposition New Democrats charged on Tuesday.

"This is the first government in Canada's history to fail an audit," Trent Wotherspoon, the NDP's finance critic, said at the legislature.

"Last year's budget was anything but honest, anything but transparent."

Wotherspoon accused Premier Brad Wall's administration of shifting debt to health regions, school boards and universities in order to maintain a clean balance sheet.

To make his point, Wotherspoon offered up a pair of transparent rubber shoes as an alternative to Finance Minister Ken Krawetz's selection of new footwear — keeping with tradition — for the budget announcement on Wednesday.

"It's time for (the government) to come clean with the Saskatchewan people (and) provide the full, true picture of our finances," he added.

The Wall government, however, maintains it's following accounting procedures used by previous NDP regimes.

"The practice was implemented by the NDP minister (Jim Melenchuk)," Krawetz told Metro of the procedure for recording financial statements.

"There is no fudging of the numbers. They are accurate."

Krawetz said the issue the provincial auditor took last year with the government's documentation of jointly funded buildings is a point of contention amongst accountants.

"The auditor was looking at the operating side … saying everything must be recorded in the general revenue fund," he explained.

"Finance officials said no, that's not the way it should be."

Shoe symbolism also extended to the government benches, with Krawetz opting to don a pair that had belonged to his late father for his speech to the legislature.

The fit of the shoes, he said, is tight — as the budget will be.

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NEWS 1

Wolfcop promotion's got some Saskatchewan flavour

Comedy/horror.
Poster for indie movie goes online in advance of theatrical release

The team behind Wolfcop is eager for the Saskatchewan-made movie's theatrical debut and has released a poster to herald its creation.

The independent comedy-horror film follows the adventures of Lou Garou, an alcoholic police officer turned werewolf.

Shot in Regina and Moose Jaw, the movie is set to open at Cineplex theatres in Saskatchewan — and possibly beyond — on June 6.

"We can't wait to show it to the world, so we thought we'd get the word out with this new poster," Regina-based writer and director Lowell Dean, who has worked on Wolfcop since 2012, told Metro on Tuesday.

The poster, Dean said, appropriately pays tribute to Wolfcop's grungy, throwback 1980s feel.

Created by artist Tom Hodge and released online Monday, the poster features a distinctly Saskatchewan element: a character drinking a bottle of Regina-brewed Mus Knuckle beer.

"The Saskatchewan reference in the film doesn't just stop on the poster," Dean noted, "because everything (the audience) will be watching is basically from the province."

Wolfcop has been made on the strength of a $1-million prize its producers won in last year's national CineCoup Film Accelerator competition. The contest sees filmmakers submit movie concepts and trailers before the winner is selected, partly based on its popularity on social media.

Dean has high hopes for the film's release, despite its small production scale.

"We can't compete with bigger films, budget-wise," he said. "But as long as we can make our money back and people walk out with a smile, that's all we can really ask for."

Dean wants any success for Wolfcop to pave the way for future Saskatchewan filmmakers.

"We're proud to be supporting Wolfcop," said Creative Saskatchewan CEO J.P. Ellson. "This is definitely the type of production that we'd like to see coming out from Saskatchewan."

SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO

The people behind Wolfcop, inset, which was shot in Saskatchewan, have released a digital poster in anticipation of the independent movie's spring debut. COURTESY TOM HODGE; INSET: COURTESY WOLFCOP

Nurses oppose controversial Lean program

The president of Saskatchewan's largest nurses union has come out against a controversial government program aimed at improving service and cutting costs in health care.

In a message on the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses (SUN) website on Tuesday, Tracy Zambory argues that the province's Lean program has done little to improve "direct care at the bedside and patient outcomes."

"Now that Lean is being put into practice we are seeing the primary focus is on creating efficiencies, waste reduction and budgetary savings only," Zambory says on the website.

"It fails to take into account patient acuity and complexity."

Though she was initially optimistic about the benefits of the strategy, Zambory says she has since fielded numerous complaints from health-care workers about Lean.

Health Minister Dustin Duncan admitted to being caught off-guard by the union's opposition.

"I've had the opportunity to meet with president Zambory twice in person and twice over the phone in the past six weeks, and never had this raised as a concern," Duncan said shortly after the message was posted.

The government is negotiating a collective bargaining agreement with the union.

Duncan refused to speculate on whether the union is using its opposition to Lean as a bargaining ploy.

"I'll let people draw their own conclusions," the minister said, adding that he scheduled a meeting with the union's officials after seeing Zambory's statement. MARCO VIGLIOTTI/METRO

Equality

U of S expands discrimination policy to include gender identity

Advocates for equality are praising the University of Saskatchewan for amending its discrimination and harassment prevention policy to include transgender, transsexual and two-spirited people.

On Tuesday, the U of S board of governors approved the change to cover gender identity, two-spirit identity and gender expression under prohibited grounds for discrimination.

Prior to the amendment, the policy protected against discrimination based only on sex and sexual orientation.

"I feel more than ecstatic that it's gone through," Jack Saddleback, co-ordinator of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union Pride Centre, said after helping to spearhead the change.

"For the university to pass this amendment, it just goes to show how progressive we are as a university in understanding that transgender rights are human rights.

"We all have a birth sex, we all have a gender identity and we all have gender expression and now, to have this ... just opens up the door for equality."

Susan Milburn, chairwoman of the board of governors, said the change is welcome.

"It was an easy decision for the board," she said.

"It came as a recommendation from some groups that we respect ... so we expect that the policy will assist in making (the U of S) a more inclusive and comfortable place."

Mikayla Schultz, director of the Gender Equality Society of Saskatchewan, said she hopes other institutions in the province follow the U of S's example.

MORGAN MODJESKI/
METRO IN SASKATOON

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JACOB MORGAN/METRO IN SASKATOON
WITH FILES FROM CBC

1 Name: Melody Wood
Age: 38
Category: Community Leadership

Melody is the indigenous knowledge systems researcher at the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre (SICC). She is also the managing editor of kimiwan zine, dedicated to creating awareness and promoting First Nations, Métis and Inuit artists and writers. Melody graduated from the First Nations University of Canada and has contributed to programs including the SICC Pow Wow Initiation Project and the Saskatoon Aboriginal Professional Association Networking Reception. She is a proud First Nations woman and brings that strength to everything that she does.

2 Name: Tom Regier
Age: 36
Category: Science and Technology

Tom started working at the Canadian Light Source (CLS) as a summer student and never looked back. He immediately showed a talent for innovation and a drive to succeed, moving up the ranks to become a beamline scientist. Under Tom's leadership, his beamline has been one of the most successful at the CLS. From amazing gizmos to science fiction-worthy software, Tom and his team do whatever it takes to ensure that their beamline is the destination of choice for the best scientists to produce the best science.

3 Name: Alicia Thatcher
Age: 20
Category: Philanthropy, Social Activism and Volunteerism

Alicia is a University of Saskatchewan student with an uncanny ability to motivate people. Her passion and dedication has led her to support causes including Camp Easter Seal, Cancer Society Relay for Life, the Multiple Sclerosis Society and many more. She has also travelled to Vietnam to volunteer at an orphanage and is involved with the Best Buddies nonprofit group for children with disabilities. This year, Alicia was named one of 12 Scotiabank Bright Future Award recipients from around the world.

4 Name: Jenn Bergen
Age: 27
Category: Community Leadership

Jenn is the co-founder of Queen City Hub, a centre in downtown Regina that provides space and support for community organizing, collaboration and innovation. The Hub opened last December and will officially launch in April. Through Jenn's leadership, the Hub has already attracted a strong and dynamic base of engaged members and volunteers. Previously, Jenn served as the executive director for the Regina Public Interest Research Group as well as the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation.

5 Name: Jason Aebig
Age: 38
Category: Community Leadership

Jason is an active community member in many ways. He is chair of the Mendel Art Gallery board of trustees and the Remai Art Gallery of Saskatchewan board of trustees. He has also served on boards including the United Way of Saskatoon and Area, the University of Saskatchewan Alumni Association, Family Service Saskatoon and the Broadway Theatre. Jason is a gifted communicator and facilitator with senior-level experience in public affairs, media relations and communications.

6 Name: Courtney Keith
Age: 31
Category: Philanthropy, Social Activism and Volunteerism

Courtney is a lawyer at MacPherson Leslie and Tyerman. She has contributed significantly to her field as the author of the Saskatchewan chapter in the Cross-Canada Guide to Human Rights Law in Employment. Locally, Courtney volunteers with the Canadian Red Cross Restoring Family Links program. Courtney also helps run the Next Chapter Book Club for people with intellectual disabilities and mentors at the Mother Teresa Middle School. In addition, Courtney is the campaign co-chair in Saskatchewan for the Liberal Party of Canada.

7 Name: Tim Johnson
Age: 29
Category: Philanthropy, Social Activism and Volunteerism

Tim has dedicated his life to helping others through his career with the Red Cross. For the last three years, Tim has run the Red Cross Power of Humanity Gala, raising more than $200,000 for Red Cross programs. He has also engaged thousands of youth during the Day of Pink bullying prevention campaign. Tim is the president of Saskatchewan Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs Regina and was the first Saskatchewan chair of Movember. Under Tim's leadership, Movember Saskatchewan raised around $910,000 to fund research and treatment for men's health.

8 Name: Alison Robertson
Age: 34
Category: Community Leadership

During the course of Alison's eight-year career with the Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre, she has achieved extensive professional accomplishments. She is currently the director of community development and has helped put together the Food Basket Challenge Project social media campaign, the Garden Patch urban agriculture project as well as the Poverty Costs public awareness initiative. Alison has a passion for community development and a strong desire to see equity and justice resonate in all aspects of community life.

9 Name: Jennifer Pereira
Age: 34
Category: Community Leadership

Jennifer is a community leader with a strong interest in arts and culture. She currently serves as the chair of the board of directors at the Persephone Theatre. For more than 10 years, Jennifer was a volunteer DJ at CFCR community radio and continues to offer her expertise as a lawyer to the organization. She also sits on the board for the music festival and technology conference MoSo Fest. Jennifer's enthusiasm and tireless work ethic are an inspiration to those around her.

Jim Flaherty steps down as finance minister after 8 years

'I leave feeling fulfilled.' Flaherty is among Canada's longest-serving finance ministers

Jim Flaherty is leaving the federal cabinet after more than eight years as finance minister to prepare for a return to the private sector, saying the move is unrelated to his recent health problems.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is expected to name his replacement Wednesday.

Flaherty, who delivered his final budget last month, said he made the decision with his family earlier this year.

"As I begin another chapter in my life, I leave feeling fulfilled with what we have accomplished as a government and a country during one of the most challenging economic periods in our country's history," he said in a statement.

Replacement

Media outlets reported Tuesday night that Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver will replace Flaherty.

An official in the Prime Minister's Office said Flaherty would be retaining — at least for now — his seat in the House of Commons, meaning he remains an MP for the time being.

Flaherty is among Canada's longest-serving finance ministers, appointed to the key economic post when the Conservative government first came to power in 2006.

He managed the country's economy through one of its worst economic crises in 2008-2009, running up large deficits but leaving the books virtually balanced after his Feb. 11 budget.

Speculation about Flaherty's future has risen in recent years after he acknowledged suffering from a rare skin condition, requiring him to take medication that led to weight gain and apparent fatigue in public appearances.

His long farewell message to Canadians, delivered unexpectedly on a government website, listed accomplishments such as cooling the housing market and introducing tax-free savings accounts.

Harper said he regretted the loss of his No. 1 money man. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty
FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadians welcome troops home from Afghanistan

MCpl. Anthony Alliot and Sarah Tooth embrace after the last Canadian troops from Afghanistan returned to Ottawa on Tuesday. The last Canadian soldiers to leave Afghanistan arrived home Tuesday to tears, hugs from family and friends and a pledge from Stephen Harper that May 9 will be set aside to honour their contributions and sacrifices. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Poll. 1 in 4 Canadian kids admit to cyberbullying

About one in four Canadian kids surveyed about cyberbullying admitted they have been "mean or cruel" to someone online, while more than one in three say they've been a victim, according to a newly released study.

But experts say cyberbullying is probably not as rampant or serious as some parents would believe.

Matthew Johnson is director of education for the nonprofit organization MediaSmarts, which worked last year with schools in each province and territory to poll 5,436 students in grades 4 through 11 about online issues.

"What we see in fact is that it is much less common and much smaller numbers of students experience significant harm," says Johnson.

Most commonly, students said the bullying act they committed was name-calling (78 per cent), while very few students owned up to more serious bad behaviour. Just 12 per cent said they made fun of someone's race or religion, seven per cent said they teased a peer about their sexual orientation, and four per cent said they sexually harassed someone. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A car burns at the scene of a helicopter crash outside the KOMO-TV studios near the Seattle Space Needle on Tuesday.
KELLY KOOPMANS/KOMO-TV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seattle. City to revisit policy on helicopter landing pads after crash

The city of Seattle will re-examine its policy on helicopter landing pads in response to Tuesday's fatal crash at a busy downtown intersection.

Mayor Ed Murray said at a news conference hours after the wreck that Seattle's regulations on helipads changed at least 20 years ago, when the city instituted more rules and limited where helicopters could take off and land.

"In consultation with the council, we will decide if we need to adjust our policies," he said.

The crash Tuesday morning happened as a news helicopter took off from a helipad at the KOMO-TV station. The chopper went down on a street near the Space Needle and exploded into flames, hitting three vehicles and setting them on fire. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No more DIY

New medical pot growing laws unconstitutional: Lawyer

A lawyer for a group of medical marijuana patients has told a Federal Court judge that stopping his clients from growing their own pot at the end of this month would violate their charter rights. Beginning next month, the government plans to allow only select commercial producers to grow marijuana for medical use, and Health Canada says anyone else growing marijuana after that is breaking the law. Growing for personal use would be illegal under the new regulations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

10 boys implicated

Community, RCMP deal with sexting case

Community leaders and police in Terrace, B.C., have worked quickly to resolve a series of texting of sexually explicit images involving 10 boys. RCMP Const. Angela Rabut says a four-month investigation found the youths, between the ages of 12 and 16, were involved in sending or receiving the images of minor girls, and cyberbullying. Rabut says a community approach was developed to stop the sexual exploitation of youth by youth. An RCMP release says most of the boys were referred to the Terrace Community Justice Forum. THE CANADIAN PRESS

‘Fireball’ sighting creates a buzz in N.S.

‘It’s not Star Trek.’
Science expert says bright light falling out of the sky was a bolide

HALEY RYAN
Metro in Halifax

A large flash that appeared in the sky early Tuesday morning had dozens of Nova Scotians talking, but a local science guru said the cause is “not so mysterious.”

According to meteorologist Richard Zurawski, the fireball seen streaking out of the sky was a bolide — a piece of rock or metal falling from space that glows when it burns up in the atmosphere, and its kinetic energy is transferred to heat and light.

“It’s a pretty typical thing. Seeing it over the Maritimes is a little unusual, but this happens thousand of times probably every 24 hours,” he said, adding they can last up to five or six seconds with a long, bright tail depending on how big the chunk of space debris was.

“It goes from 20 to 40 kilometres a second,” Zurawski said, and are usually the size of a human head or larger.

Some people have found pieces of bolides that reach the ground, which are then known as meteorites, he said.

Although many of these fall to earth every day, Zurawski said it’s unusual for people to spot one because there’s so much unpopulated space in the Arctic tundra, ocean or desert where they could land.

A bright light shows near the Masstown Market, N.S. COURTESY NOVA SCOTIA WEBCAMS

Random act of kindness.
Stranger hands couple, two others $50 bills

June Bond said she was “still shaking” Tuesday afternoon as she talked about a mysterious stranger walking up to her Dartmouth, N.S., home and handing over two $50 bills.

Bond and Bill MacNamara were having a cigarette on their porch around 9 a.m. Tuesday when a yellow Nissan Xterra pulled up and the man got out, she said.

At first she thought he might have been selling something, Bond said, before he handed over the bills and two silver $5 coins. She said he then told the couple to “look up and say thank you” as he pointed to the sky.

“You hear of random acts of kindness but it’s usually a Tim Horton’s coffee … you don’t get $100,” Bond said. “It came at a time that we needed it too.”

Bond said she wanted to tell their story so she could find the modern-day Robin Hood and give him a big hug and ask him why he gave away the money.

The man had dark hair, a salt and pepper beard, was dressed like a “normal everyday guy” and didn’t look especially rich, Bond said.

He even gave out two more $50 bills to two women in the nearby parking lot of a convenience store, said a man working at the store’s counter.

The stranger handed over the money and said it was a message from God or something similar before the women excitedly ran into the store, he said.

MacNamara said the man told them to pass along the money if they knew of someone else who needed it more than them, and Bond said they will definitely find a way to “pay it forward.”

HALEY RYAN/METRO IN HALIFAX

Seal hunt supporters rally

An Inuit student poses in a sealskin jacket during a rally Tuesday on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. Canada and Norway are in the process of appealing the World Trade Organization’s recent decision to uphold a four-year-old European Union ban on seal products. The three-day WTO appeal hearing wraps up Wednesday and a final ruling is expected next month. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Vladimir Putin welcomes Crimea back into the fold

Annexation. Russian president dismisses criticism, blasting the West as hypocrites and Ukraine as run by radical nationalists

Thousands of pro-Russian people watch a live broadcast of Russian President Vladimir Putin's speech on Crimea in Sevastopol, Crimea, Tuesday. Fiercely defending Russia's move to annex Crimea, Putin said Russia had to respond to what he described as a plot by the West to take Ukraine into its influence. VADIM GHIRDA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

With a sweep of his pen, President Vladimir Putin added Crimea to the map of Russia on Tuesday, describing the move as correcting a past injustice and responding to what he called Western encroachment upon Russia's vital interests.

While his actions were met with cheers in Crimea and Russia, Ukraine's new government called Putin a threat to the whole world and U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden warned that the U.S. and Europe will impose further sanctions against Moscow.

"The world has seen through Russia's actions and has rejected the flawed logic," Biden said as he met with European leaders in Poland.

In an emotional 40-minute speech televised live from the Kremlin, Putin said he was merely restoring order to history by incorporating Crimea.

"In people's hearts and minds, Crimea has always been an integral part of Russia," he declared, dismissing Western criticism of Sunday's Crimean referendum as a manifestation of the West's double standards.

Often interrupted by applause, Putin said the rights of ethnic Russians in Ukraine had been abused by the new Ukrainian government and insisted that Crimea's vote to join Russia was in line with international law and reflected its right for self-determination.

Putin said his actions followed what he described as Western arrogance, hypocrisy and pressure, and warned that the West must drop its stubborn refusal to take Russian concerns into account.

"If you push a spring too hard at some point it will spring back," he said, addressing the West. "You always need to remember this."

While Putin boasted that the Russian takeover of Crimea was conducted without a single shot, a Ukrainian military spokesman said one Ukrainian serviceman was killed and another injured when a military facility in Crimea was stormed Tuesday by armed men just hours after Putin's speech.

Putin argued that the months of protests in the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv which prompted President Viktor Yanukovych to flee to Russia had been instigated by the West to weaken Russia. He cast the new Ukrainian government as illegitimate, driven by radical "nationalists, neo-Nazis, Russophobes and anti-Semites."

In response, Ukraine's new government called Putin dangerous.

"Today's statement by Putin showed in high relief what a real threat Russia is for the civilized world and international security," Ukrainian foreign ministry spokesman Evhen Perebinis said on Twitter. "(The annexation) has nothing to do with law or with democracy or sensible thinking."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I have heard residents of Crimea say that back in 1991 they were handed over like a sack of potatoes."

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who declared that the collapse of the Soviet Union made Russians "the largest divided people in the world."

The view from home

Canadian sanctions won't isolate Russia, says ambassador

Russia's ambassador to Canada says sanctions from the West over Ukraine won't isolate his country, and expelling it from the G8 would only hurt stability around the world.

Energy-thirsty Asian countries such as China are waiting in the wings if Europe and North America decide they won't want Russia's resources, Georgiy Mamedov said Tuesday.

"Look at the map," he said. "Half of Russia is in Asia. So even if — and I don't think that western countries are, you know, adventuristic or crazy enough to shoot themselves in the leg and to undercut mutually beneficial energy and other relationship with Russia — but even if they did, the longest border in the world that we have is with China, not with Belgium and not with Canada, unfortunately."

Canada joined other countries in imposing sanctions on Russia as a result of Sunday's vote in Crimea, but Mamedov shrugged off the sanctions. "I've been around and you can't isolate Russia," he said.

There was some confusion Tuesday over whether Russia would be suspended from the Group of Eight leading industrial countries.

France's Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius told a European radio station that G8 leaders had "decided to suspend Russia's participation." Britain's Foreign Office, meanwhile, said that Russia is still part of the G8, but did not rule out a suspension. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Serbia

Suspected drug kingpin arrested

Darko Saric, the most wanted suspected drug lord in the Balkans, was arrested Tuesday after surrendering to Serbian authorities, government officials said.

Saric has been on the run since 2009 when a shipment of cocaine he allegedly organized was disrupted near the Uruguayan coast. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Africa

Hundreds of migrants storm Spanish enclave

Some 500 stone-throwing migrants from sub-Saharan Africa forced their way into the Spanish enclave of Melilla from Morocco on Tuesday in one of the biggest illegal border-crossings of recent years, Spanish and Moroccan officials said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Germany

Authorities arrest elderly former Auschwitz guard

German authorities have arrested a 93-year-old man on suspicion of "multiple counts" of accessory to murder while he was a SS guard in the Auschwitz death in September 1944 — a time when prosecutors say more than 1,700 people were sent to the camp's gas chambers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Swithering' Scots have power to break up U.K.

Scotland's swithering "middle million" has Britain's future in its hands.

"Swithering" means wavering, and it's a word you hear a lot in Scotland right now. Six months from now, Scottish voters must decide whether their country should become independent, breaking up Great Britain as it has existed for 300 years.

Faced with the choice, many find their hearts say "aye" but their heads say "why risk it?" Polls suggest as many as a quarter of Scotland's 4 million voters remain undecided, and their choices will determine the outcome.

Many long to cut the ties binding them to England, but fear the risks — and the financial fallout.

The two countries united in 1707 to form Great Britain, with a shared monarch, currency, and a London-based government.

It has always been a lopsided relationship — England's population is 10 times Scotland's 5.3 million. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fan-made content is music to record executives' ears

YouTube. User uploads earning music biz more dough than official videos

The recording industry is making more money from fan-made mashups, lip-syncs and tributes on YouTube than from official music videos.

"It's a massive growth area. We're very excited about the creativity of consumers using our repertoire and creating their own versions of our videos," said Francis Keeling, the global head of digital business for Universal Music Group.

With one billion users worldwide, YouTube is the most used music service in the world, according to the annual Music Report released Tuesday by IFPI, an organization that represents 1,300 record companies around the world.

Hitting the right notes

New revenue streams are good news for the music industry, which saw a global decline in revenues of 3.9% in 2013 to about $15 billion US.

"All record companies make their repertoire available to YouTube," Keeling explained.

The video website, owned by Google, alerts record companies when a YouTube user uploads content that uses a copyrighted song.

Rather than order the video removed for copyright infringement, the record company can instead choose to run ads before and during the video, making money off the video's views.

For example, a video of American comedian Steve Kardynal wearing a bikini and lip-synching Carly Rae Jepsen's Call Me Maybe for unsuspecting viewers on Chatroulette racked up more than 14 million views, which earned ad dollars for the record label behind Jepsen's hit single.

User-generated content is actually generating more money for record labels than the official music videos posted by record labels, Keeling said.

"A lot of that is due to consumers putting more and more repertoire and new versions up there, but also it's YouTube getting better at advertising," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK JFK 512 11:25a C27
NEW YORK JFK 6052 10:00a C25 Delayed
NEWARK Liberty 518 11:45a C40 Cancelled
NEWARK Liberty 1199 9:47a Cancelled
NEWARK Liberty 2280 10:04a C25 Cancelled
ORLANDO INTL 1685 11:12a C17 Now 10:56a
ORLANDO INTL 550 10:11a C31 Arrived
PHILADELPHIA 1450 12:54p C34 Delayed
PHILADELPHIA 1776 9:54a C30 Cancelled
PITTSBURGH 160 11:43a C32 Cancelled
PITTSBURGH 1286 10:27a C11 Cancelled
PROVINCETOWN MA 1486 12:38p C29 Cancelled
Delayed

The winter of flyers' discontent

A flight board shows JetBlue cancellations at Logan International Airport on Jan. 7 in Boston, a day after the airline cancelled nearly all operations into Logan because of bad weather. It was that kind of month for JetBlue, and it was that kind of month for all U.S. airlines, which posted one of their worst January on-time performances ever, as winter storms pounded parts of the country. One-third of all flights arrived late, the rate of cancelled flights was the second-highest ever, and reports of mishandled bags soared. STORY: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS; PHOTO: DARREN MCCOLLESTER/GETTY IMAGES

Market Minute

DOLLAR
89.79¢
(-0.68¢)

TSX
14,368.97 (+137.08)

OIL
$99.70 US (+$1.62)

GOLD
$1,359 US (-$13.90)

Natural gas: $4.47 US (-$0.05)
Dow Jones: 16,336.19 (+88.97)

Canadian report

41.1% of small businesses use url

A new study says fewer than half of Canada's small businesses have an online presence and may be losing sales opportunities. Overall, it found that 45.5 per cent of Canadian businesses are online. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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AND THE MOST FAMOUS CANADIAN IS...

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Quick! Who's the most famous Canadian in the world?

Chris Hadfield, the singing astronaut?

Christopher Plummer, the Oscar-winning actor?

Wayne Gretzky, the Great One?

Nope, it's Avril Lavigne, that's who.

That's if you believe an MIT research project called Pantheon that combed through online references to anyone between 4,000 BC and 2010 who has a Wikipedia reference in more than 25 languages.

It's bad enough that MIT has anointed a pop has-been in the waning stages of her career as the most famous Canadian ever, but our credulity is strained to the breaking point as it goes down the list.

The second most famous Canadian is Jim Carrey? Jim Carrey hasn't had a hit since the '90s and his most recent effort is Dumb and Dumber To.

The outrage continues: Justin Bieber is number three, which makes sense because he's Canadian Bad Boy Number One, right up there with Rob Ford. Number four is Celine Dion, who's certainly famous in Vegas, but number five is Pamela Anderson, who was famous for doing nothing long ago, before she was supplanted by Kim Kardashian.

As statistically sound as it appears to be, the process is obviously flawed. Garbage in, garbage out. What can you expect from research that would have us believe that the world's most famous actor is Molière? (Thousands of commuters call up Molière on their devices, only to discover a 17th century French playwright. Shakespeare would have something to say about that, in iambic pentameter, no less.)

You have to wonder what Avril Lavigne is thinking, as she lounges by the pool out there somewhere in pop-tart land with her arguably more famous husband Chad Kroeger, lead singer for Nickelback. "Like, Chad, I told you I was more famous than you are. In fact, I'm more famous than Pamela Anderson."

I really don't think MIT should be encouraging this sort of thing.

Chad, by the way, did not make the list even though he's the front man for Billboard's top rock group of the 2000s.

The rest of the top 25 list continues to undermine the credibility of the MIT findings. Either that, or I don't get out enough these days. Somebody named Chris Benoit is the 12th most famous Canadian in the world, more famous than Avatar director James Cameron (14) and Marshall McLuhan (17) the man who said "The medium is the message." Boy, was he right on. Just not as famous as Avril Lavigne or Chris Benoit, whoever he is.

It may be this list is telling the truth, and in the words of that famous American Jack Nicholson, we can't handle the truth. So, like most people who don't like what they hear, I propose to ignore all this … data, and go on thinking that Glenn Gould, the world's greatest pianist (19), is more famous, and deservedly so, than some guy named Chris Benoit.

ZOOM

Birds of a spider flock together

JURGEN OTTO /SOLENT NEWS

Spider's display is courtship dance

This male spider tries to attract a female by showing off its colours — just like a peacock. The maratus, also known as the peacock spider, flaunts its stunning blue, red and green flaps to catch the eye of a female. The spider, one of 43 species of maratus, was found by biologist Jurgen Otto near Esperance, Western Australia. **METRO**

Quoted

"The males do not discriminate between the females of different species and will display their bright bodies to females that belong to other species." Jurgen Otto

Arachnid gives bird's-eye view

This species of peacock spider, the maratus avibus, really does look like a feathered creature.

"The design on the spider's abdomen looks like two birds facing each other — which made experts choose the name 'avibus', meaning 'birds' in Latin," says Otto. **METRO**

Clickbait

HANNAH ZITNER
hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

It's that time of year again: the dreaded tax season. With a few weeks to go to file, might as well check it off the to-do list now. You can shell out and get your accountant to take care of it, or stay home, brew a cup of coffee and get it done yourself. Here are a few CRA Netfile-certified online/mobile options to (hopefully) take some of the pain away.

ISTOCKIMAGES

SimpleTax:

Relatively new to the tax-filing game, this unique pay-what-you-want model lets users decide how much — if anything — they want to pay.

SnapTax:

Yes, that 'snap' does refer to snapping a pic. Take a photo (iPhone or iPad only) of your T4, fill out a quick (they say) form on your iDevice and voilà. Though, it doesn't work for those with offspring or other dependants — you'll need to use their parent company, TurboTax, for that.

UFile:

UFile is free if you're a tax newbie, student or make less than $20K or have a very simple return (one single T4 and no other fancy account). Filling individual returns start at $16 and lets you add a spouse for $10.

For a full list of Netfile-certified software, programs and apps, go to netfile.gc.ca

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Governments and private companies have their sights on mining the moon. Do you think it's a good idea?

@chiefwrongwolf: why does this need science? mime?? besides this is the Owrst game of charades I have EVER played let me tell you

@Machzy: Agent Smith said it best - humans are a virus - we move to an area and multiply until every natural resource is consumed. Looks like the moon is next!

@tolitojohnson: at least on the moon we won't be destroying our own home and there will be a plentiful supply of resource. It's a win/win.

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Send us your comments: reginaletters@metronews.ca

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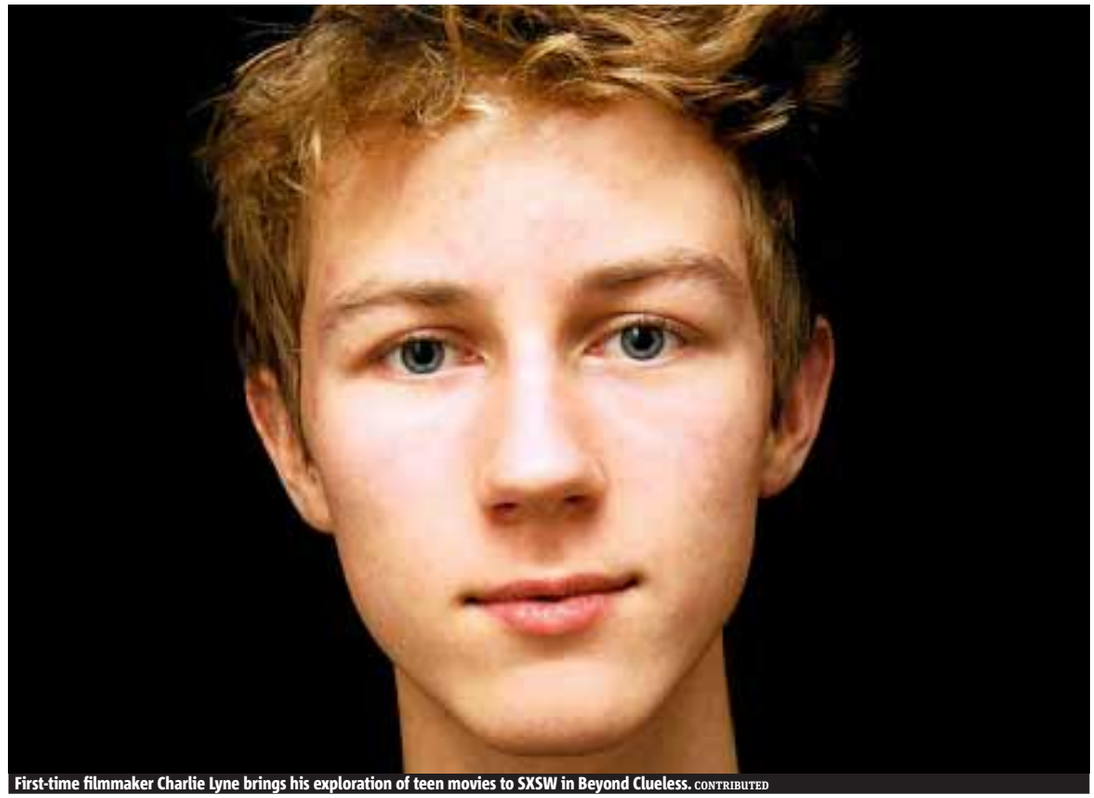
Filmmaker explores teen genre in Beyond Clueless

SXSW. Documentary examines teen movies from more than 200 not-quite classics

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood



First-time filmmaker Charlie Lyne brings his exploration of teen movies to SXSW in Beyond Clueless. CONTRIBUTED

First-time filmmaker Charlie Lyne came to SXSW to premiere Beyond Clueless, his exploration of teen movies. Less a traditional, talking heads doc than a lyrical, fluid examination of the genre, Lyne gives the scholarly and artistic treatment to a class of films usually excluded from such pursuits, with narration by Fairuza Balk and visuals from more than 200 teen not-quite classics.

How has it been, bringing your first film to SXSW?

What's nice is it feels like we're repeating the experience of doing the Kickstarter now because it's going out to a load of people who have no idea who any of us are but have some bearing on this subject matter.

They have some sort of built-in interest in the subject of teen movies because most people tend to have that. Everyone has that film that they grew up watching and obsessing over, and usually it's a film that is quite singular to them.

So is Clueless that movie for you?

Clueless is a film I completely love and certainly growing up it was one of my five or 10 that I would go back to again and again and again, but actually the ones I always found more fascinating were the ones that, for lack of a better word, aren't quite as good as Clueless.

The teen genre for me is most fascinating when it doesn't quite work, you know? There's plenty of teen movies that I think are unequivocally brilliant — wouldn't change a thing, perfect movies — stuff like Clueless, stuff like Cruel Intentions, that just really work and know themselves.

But the teen movies that I find fascinating are the ones that aren't quite there, that have so much buried beneath the skin but don't quite know what they are. There's so much more going on that even the film itself isn't really aware of — which perfectly mirrors the experience of being a teenager.

So a film with an identity crisis?

Exactly. So many of them seem to have these palpable identity crises going on inside them. Something like Idle Hands. A film about a teenage boy who has an attractive girl move in next door and suddenly finds that he can't control his right hand — it doesn't seem like a stretch to say that's a metaphor for something. And yet you look back at the way people talked about it when it first came out and there's nothing about that. It's all just, "Devon Sawa is reasonably OK in this middling horror vehicle."

They seem to go in cycles of popularity, teen movies.

Almost to the year, you can watch how it's 10 years on, five years off. So you have 1982 to 1989, roughly — massive. John Hughes, Brat Pack, the famous teen movie era that people still talk about as being a kind of golden age. Huge.

And then you look at 1990 to 1994, almost nothing. Even the films that are there don't feel like teen movies exactly as we know them. They feel like sort of hangovers from the '80s, like people trying to make John Hughes teen movies five years late.

And then it takes a couple of films — Clueless — to rejuvenate that, and suddenly you have another 10 years where it's just on and it's huge again, and you have more teen movies produced in a smaller amount of time than ever before. And then of course it dies again.

And I was unlucky. All these movies that I've made the film about are the ones that I was watching on VHS and DVD when I was growing up. But actually the ones that were in cinemas when I was a teenager were kind of awful.

The teen market is also one that never really goes away in Hollywood.

Surely it's the one film genre that openly states who it's for in its very title. I love that about it, I think there's something really interesting about films that are explicitly marketed toward the most malleable, impressionable group. And why wouldn't they be the most fascinating to talk about when they have so much power over people?

I think everyone would be willing to admit that they were in at least some way shaped by the films that they saw at that age. That was what was brilliant and terrifying about doing this film, was watching all these films that I unthinkingly took on at 13 and going, "Oh God, what awful lessons was I learning? What was I accepting about myself on the basis of this film?" So it's been good therapy. I'm now a functional human being after going through my teen movie demons.

Quoted

"That was what was brilliant and terrifying about doing this film, was watching all these films that I unthinkingly took on at 13 and going, 'Oh God, what awful lessons was I learning? What was I accepting about myself on the basis of this film?' So it's been good therapy. I'm now a functional human being after going through my teen movie demons." Filmmaker Charlie Lyne

Imogen imagines the woman behind Hendrix

Jimi: All is by My Side. Actress Imogen Poots talks to Metro about her role as Linda Keith, who cajoled Hendrix out of obscurity

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

British actress Imogen Poots made a quick stop in Austin, Texas, to unveil Jimi: All is by My Side, writer-director John Ridley's look at the early days of Jimi Hendrix (Andre Benjamin), at SXSW. In the film, Poots stars as Linda Keith, girlfriend to Keith Richards and the woman who cajoles Hendrix out of obscurity and helps shape his style and persona.

First of all, we have to talk about Andre Benjamin's performance as Hendrix.

He's electrifying. The first time I met him I was so entranced by him. And I think, if anything, he had to quiet himself for Jimi. There's a real intelligence and perceptiveness to somebody just observing and being quiet, and I think that's something he wanted Jimi to have. And also an innate melancholy. I think that comes true.

Linda Keith is not as well known, so was it less of a worry for you about having to match her?

Our director spoke to her, and she was very cool. She was sort of like, "Go do your thing, I give you my blessing but I don't want any part of it." In that way, it was certainly a relief, because if you meet the person face-to-face it's a whole new pressure. But I really, really love Linda. You can see how important it was to her but also how cool she was in a way. I wouldn't want Linda Keith to turn around and be like, "What have you done? My hair wasn't cut that way!"

It's fascinating to see her role in shaping who Jimi Hendrix eventually came to be.

And I think it's really, really authentic, actually, in terms of John's storytelling. She very much was a catalyst for him. She was really instrumental in his career in London, and a lot of people maybe don't know that.

You'd think Hendrix would have been a bit more appreciative.

I think what she knows is the idea that you can sort of nurture an artist and support them, but they don't belong to you. The audience and the listeners believe that a part of him belongs to them. You can't put ownership on a figure.

It's sort of the same thing as making a film about Hendrix. People who love him will feel an inevitable ownership, like they want to see the Hendrix they want to see. But my favourite thing about the role, really, was the idea that you do all this and then you can step back and maybe just listen to the records. And then you just live your life.

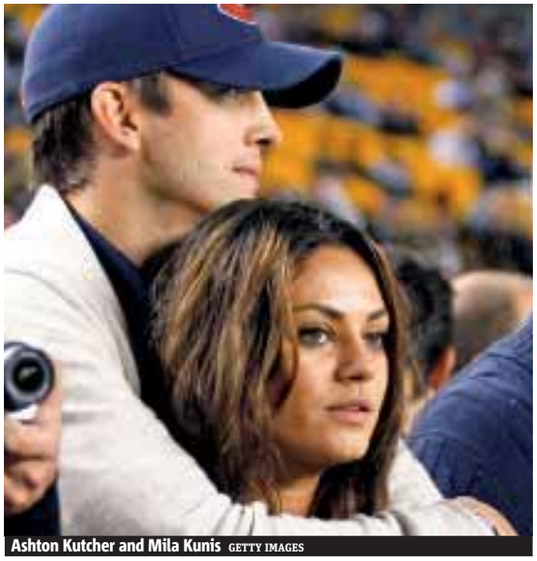
And given the emphasis put on music, SXSW seems like a fantastic environment to showcase a film like this.

It's great, it's such a fun environment. I'm just happy to be heading south whenever I'm in America, always. In search of cowboys. They're somewhere.

Actress Imogen Poots attends the premiere of Jimi: All By My Side during the SXSW Music, Film + Interactive Festival at the Paramount Theatre on March 12, 2014, in Austin, Texas. MICHAEL BUCKNER/GETTY IMAGES

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES



Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kunis GETTY IMAGES

Lovebirds despised each other on set of That '70s Show, say former co-stars

Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kunis are set to tie the knot and seem ridiculously happy together, and no one is more surprised than their former That '70s Show colleagues.

"Everyone shakes their head over the romance," a source says, explaining that the pair "despised each other" while making the hit sitcom, according to Radar Online. "Ashton and Mila were absolutely not friends during much of the making of That '70s Show. In fact, they couldn't stand working together."

That all changed, apparently, after Kutcher's very public split from ex-wife Demi Moore. "Mila was the one who came forward to bury the hatchet," the source explains. "Everyone's amazed at how different Ashton and Mila are together from when they were younger. It's such a total change."

Kanye West GETTY IMAGES

Kanye sentenced to anger management classes after run-in with paparazzo

Kanye West has been sentenced to two years of probation and 240 hours of community service after pleading no contest to a battery charge stemming from his run-in with a paparazzo last July, according to TMZ.

The rapper must also complete 24 anger management sessions and turn himself in to the LAPD for formal booking.

Last summer, West got into a scrape with photographer Daniel Ramos outside the LAX airport. "Without warning or provocation, Mr. West suddenly attacked Daniel, punching him and attempting to wrestle Daniel's camera from his hands," Ramos' attorney, Gloria Allred, recounted in a statement. Reps from West's camp had no comment.

The Word

Courtney Love finds missing airplane, according to Courtney Love

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News

Courtney Love is about as stable as Los Angeles was at 6:25 a.m. on Monday. If given the choice, I would not elect Courtney to the position of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 Finder-In-Chief — for that, I'd probably go with an international team of aviation experts.

However, the international team of aviation experts haven't turned up much, have they? Every day they widen the search area so much that I presume we'll soon be looking on the moon. Courtney Love, on the other hand, believes she knows exactly where it is, so maybe we ought to give her a shot.

"I'm no expert but up close this does look like a plane and an oil slick," she tweeted, with a link to a satellite photo showing an empty-looking stretch of ocean.

Love then tweeted that the location was "like a mile away Pulau Perak, where they 'last' tracked it." She also added some childish-looking scrawls over the photo pointing to where she thinks the plane and oil are.

I really don't know what I'll do with myself if it turns out she's right. Then again, Courtney Love Finding Missing People All Around the World Through the Power of MS Paint is definitely a TV show I'd watch.

L'Wren Scott THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Eerie posts appear on L'Wren's social media feeds

Designer L'Wren Scott's sudden death Monday was made even more shocking when her social media accounts continued posting several hours after she died.

Because of previously scheduled posts or a PR team that wasn't yet aware of her passing, several Facebook posts and tweets appeared after her death was announced, confusing and upsetting her followers.

Perhaps the eeriest image was a photo of several of Scott's designs hung from a tree and apparently lit from within, which appeared on the designer's Facebook just hours after her death was announced. A strange, ghostly image indeed, after the designer's apparent suicide.

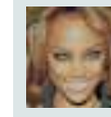
Her Twitter account also remained active, leaving some fans unsure of whether her death was a hoax or not. Fashion blogger Bryan Boy shared a befuddled screenshot and tweeted, "But Lwren tweeted 3 hours ago???"

Scott was Mick Jagger's longtime girlfriend, and The Rolling Stones said Tuesday they have called off tour dates in Australia and New Zealand in the wake of her death.

The iconic band said in a statement they "are deeply sorry and disappointed to announce the postponement of the rest of their 14 ON FIRE tour." Band members thanked fans "for their support at this difficult time."

The Stones were scheduled to play Wednesday in Perth, Australia, and at other stops this week and next week, including Melbourne and Sydney. **WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Twitter



@tyrabanks
Running late to a meeting. Why? Because I couldn't get my damn winged eyeliner straight!

@IJasonAlexander
That 6:30AM wake up call today was a bit over the top. A simple car alarm going off pre-dawn will suffice.

@JuddApatow
Everyone seems to say 'love you' way more than they used to. Is this a new catch phrase? I don't think more people actually love me.

LIFE 3

There's liquid gold hidden in California wine country, part of an olive oil boom in recent years. You can tour an orchard, learn what extra-virgin olive oil really means and taste your way through lemon-, herb- and even chocolate-infused olive oils. Harvest is usually around the end of the year, but any time is good for a visit

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

5 olive oil trail 'pit' stops

ERIC RISBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Round Pond Estate

A family run winery whose owners branched out into olives some years ago, this Rutherford, Calif., estate produces four gourmet olive oils and has an onsite olive mill. If you're pressed for time you can do the Splash and Dash tasting, enjoying olive oils and the estate's red wine vinegars. Visit roundpond.com/olive-mill for more.

SCREEN GRAB/LONGMEADOWRANCH.COM

Long Meadow Ranch

Tailor your visit to be long or short, depending on your inclination. Stop by the winery tasting room in St. Helena to enjoy an olive oil tasting, no appointment needed. For a more in-depth look, visit the winery's Mayacamas Estate. You'll explore the grounds, see the vineyards and visit the oldest olive orchard in Napa County, planted in the 1870s. See longmeadowranch.com.

McEvoy Ranch

ERIC RISBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

McEvoy Ranch started when Nan McEvoy, part of the family that founded the San Francisco Chronicle, was looking for a place in the country. She settled on 550 acres in Marin County. Inspired by her love of Tuscan olive oil, she worked with Italian expert Maurizio Castelli to create what is now a thriving business. The ranch is open only at certain times of the year, so you'll need to plan your visit. See mcevoyranch.com.

ERIC RISBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

The Olive Press

The Olive Press offers a tour of its mill in Sonoma where you can learn about how the oil is made, get tips on how to taste oil like a professional and browse the large store. Tour reservations are required at least a week in advance, and cost varies from free to $20 per person depending on activities selected. See theolivepress.com.

Lucero

Walk into the downtown Napa tasting room of Lucero Olive Oil and you know you're in for some serious tasting. The walls are lined with bottles of olive oil including several infused oils that range from zippy Meyer lemon to a chocolate-infused oil that is delicious on ice cream. Lucero also produces a range of balsamic vinegars, table olives, tapenades and mustards which are available for tasting. See luceroliveoil.com.

SCREEN GRAB/LUCEROOLIVEOIL.COM

Discover EUROPE by land or by cruise

Best of Greece
Athens • Santorini • Mykonos
10 days | 8 nights
May 26
SAVE $200 PER COUPLE†
$2599
Add taxes & other fees: $130

Island Delight
Athens • Santorini • Mykonos • Crete
12 days | 10 nights
May 26
SAVE $200 PER COUPLE†
$2999
Add taxes & other fees: $130

Royal Caribbean International
Independence of the Seas®
Western Mediterranean
Round-trip flight to London (via Toronto)
Inside stateroom, cat. M
Sept. 20 • 12 nts.
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Sneak extra fibre and protein into a Chinese food favourite

Chicken Fried Rice.
With the addition of chickpeas, this dish takes on a healthier profile that is sure to become a family fave

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

One my grandmother's favourite things to eat is Chinese food.

I'm not sure if it's the colourful sauces or the strong differences in flavours from her mother country's Italian food but she sure does enjoy it.

So, at her 85 years of age, I like to make food for her that is hearty and healthy. Here is a version of chicken fried rice that fits the bill.

Luckily, she approves of it — even with the slightly sneaky addition of chickpeas for additional fibre! The chickpeas also add protein to keep you full.

Colourful and easy to make, it should quickly become your grandma's (and entire family's) favourite too.

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups (375 ml) sodium reduced chicken broth
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) brown rice
- 1 tsp (5 ml) sesame oil
- 2 boneless skinless chicken breasts, chopped (about 12 oz/340 g)
- 1 cup (250 ml) sliced mushrooms
- 2 green onions, chopped
- 1 carrot, diced
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) sliced celery
- 1 cup (250 ml) cooked chickpeas
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) sodium reduced soy sauce
- 2 cups (500 ml) bean sprouts

1. In a saucepan, bring 1 1/4 cups (300 ml) of the sodium reduced chicken stock and brown rice to boil.

2. Reduce the heat to low. Cover and cook for about 25 minutes or until liquid is absorbed. Fluff with fork and set aside.

3. In a large nonstick skillet heat the sesame oil over medium high heat and cook boneless skinless chicken and sliced mushrooms for about 8 minutes or until chicken is no longer pink.

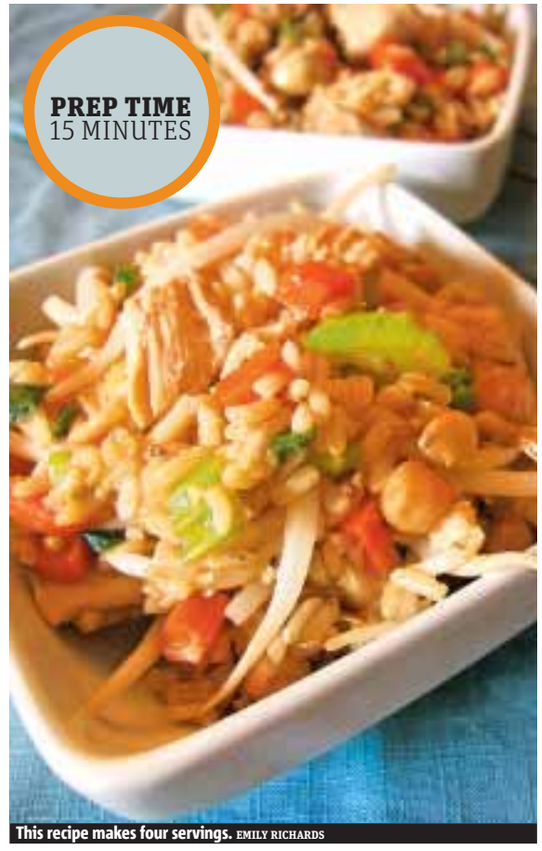
4. Add the chopped green onions, diced carrot, sliced celery, cooked chickpeas and cooked rice. Cook, stirring for 2 another minutes to combine all of the flavours.

5. Add the remaining chicken stock and soy sauce and cook for 5 minutes. Add bean sprouts and toss to combine.

6. Serve on its own or with side of sautéed vegetables.

Cooking tips

- Vegetarian Fried Rice option: Use vegetable broth for the chicken stock and omit chicken breasts. Use 1 1/2 cups (375 ml) chopped extra firm tofu for the chicken.
- You can use 2 cups (500 ml) of cooked chopped or shredded chicken instead of cooking chicken for the recipe.



This recipe makes four servings. EMILY RICHARDS

Light Asian flavours

Fried Asian food (think spring rolls, wontons) is a lot of people's fave, but who wants to deep-fry at home? Simple teriyaki chicken served in lettuce wraps is not only full of Asian flavours but healthier too.

1. In a small bowl, whisk together the soy sauce, honey, ginger, garlic powder, hot sauce and fish sauce. Set aside.

2. In a food processor, combine carrots and onion. Pulse until finely chopped. Add chicken, then pulse several times to begin chopping chicken. Add sauce, then continue pulsing just until chicken is well chopped, but not ground.

3. In a large skillet over medium-high, heat the oil. Add the chicken and cook, stirring often and breaking up any clumps, until cooked through, about 8 minutes. In a small glass, stir together the cornstarch and water, then add to the skillet. Stir and cook for another 2 minutes.

4. Transfer the chicken to one side of a serving platter. Arrange the lettuce leaves on the other side. Diners help themselves by spooning the chicken into individual leaves, using the leaves as they would a sandwich wrap.

Teriyaki Chicken Lettuce Wraps serve eight. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup low-sodium soy sauce
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1 tbsp grated fresh ginger
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp hot sauce
- 1 tsp fish sauce
- 3 medium carrots, cut into chunks
- 1 small yellow onion, quartered
- 1 1/2 lbs boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- 2 tbsp canola oil
- 1 tbsp cornstarch
- 2 tbsp cool water
- 1 head Boston lettuce, separated into leaves (or similar broad, tender lettuce)

Shopping around for a new gig?

You've got this job in the bag. A career in retail is an easy sell once you consider the opportunities in store

ELIAS DA SILVA-POWELL
TalentEgg.ca

Many opportunities branch outwards from entry-level positions on the retail floor, because these roles are hands-on learning experiences and provide plenty of opportunity to demonstrate skills and potential. ISTOCK

Planning on landing your first job in retail?

There are a number of different qualities that make retail a promising field, whether you're taking your first career step or planning for a career transition. Identifying some of the great qualities of working in retail can help you create a long-term plan for your career.

Here are three reasons retail is a great career field, as well as some tips to help you plan your next move.

There is variety and growth potential

Since some of the most visible jobs in retail involve working directly with the public in a retail store, it's easy to be tricked into thinking that "retail" is just a type or level of job.

Remember this: retail is an industry.

This means that all sorts of career opportunities are present for a candidate with the right background who is willing to invest some time learning from the ground up.

"Too often, students forget that many senior executives started from the ground level of their organizations and worked their way up," says Devon Blower, a recruitment specialist with Bell.

It's increasingly common for entry-level retail applicants to have long-term career plans with an organization — and to share those plans as part of an application or interview process.

"There are lots of candidates all trying to get into this organization and this industry," says Devon. "We have lots of opportunity."

Tip: What roles do you want to explore at your prospective employer in the long-term? Why? Answering these questions will help you plan your search more effectively.

You can pursue your interests — or discover new ones

Movin' on up

"Too often, students forget that many senior executives started from the ground level of their organizations."

Devon Blower
Recruitment specialist with Bell

Since retail is an industry, there are a lot of opportunity for to pursue a personal passion at work, or even discover a new one.That's what happened to Maya Bielinski, who went to work at her family's jewelry store with trepidation.

"My parents had always worked in the business, and I was pretty sure I wanted nothing to do with it," she says. "I didn't know anything about metalsmithing or jewelry design or gemstones — and at the time I didn't even want to learn!"

That changed pretty quickly, when she found an old book about precious stones one day while on break.

"I guess I needed to see it all from a different angle. I never considered the geography or geology or chemical "composition of gemstones," Maya says. "But this little book had me hooked. I was fascinated by all this new knowledge."

The more she learned, the more she found herself engaging at the store — even fashioning trinkets of her own and connecting with customers who expressed interest. Soon, she found herself with a new hobby.

"I was surrounded by all these incredible objects and by people who really valued the artistry and skill that went into creating them. Jewelry wasn't just shiny ornaments anymore — I started seeing it as sculpture, sometimes showcasing amazing geology."

While she's moved on to pursue a law degree, she credits her first employment experience in retail with helping her start building skills she's put to work since.

"If you can find a thread of interest in whatever work you're doing, pursue it. Curiosity and dedication will serve you well whatever job you're working."

Tip: Got a hobby, talent or interest? See if that self-taught background positions you for a corresponding type of retail role. Your employer will probably appreciate your product knowledge.

Just about every job listing sparks fierce competition, and retail is no exception.

You won't land your first job in retail unless you're ready to consistently challenge yourself to grow and expand your knowledge. Count on it.

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You don't learn by looking

Many people experience their first role in retail as a part-time or summer job and leave convinced that "working in retail" means never moving beyond that first role, never learning or growing (or earning more money).

- In reality, every career path presents opportunities to learn, grow and develop transferable skills.
- Store manager Mandy Utton knows. While her years of retail experience at Starbucks have taught her a lot about company routines and products, she focuses on one of the most important skills she puts to work every day.
- "The most important thing I've learned is how to lead," she says. "My job is managing a store, but it is leadership that inspires a team."
- Part of any learning experience is recognizing that you don't know what you don't know — so don't make assumptions about a job until you've had a chance to experience it first-hand (for months, not days).

Tip: Do your research. See if you can connect with people in your prospective retail position and learn more about the job and industry. This is networking — you'll be doing it for your whole career.

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SPRING CAR CARE

Wednesday, March 19, 2014

Tune into a new season

JIL MCINTOSH
For Metro

It's a good idea to have your vehicle inspected by a technician, who will check to see that everything is ready for spring. WAVEBREAKMEDIA/SHUTTERSTOCK

Your vehicle has gone through a lot over the winter — bad weather, cold temperatures, and, undoubtedly, several potholes. As the nicer weather arrives, some preventative post-winter maintenance will help ensure your car stays running properly.

If you use winter tires, they should be swapped for your all-season or summer tires. Winter tires have a softer compound that helps them stick to cold pavement, but they wear out faster on warmer surfaces. If you have kept the same tires all winter, check to be sure they have no bulges on the sidewall, and that they have sufficient tread left on them.

It's a good idea to have your vehicle inspected by a technician, who will check to see that everything came through winter OK and is ready for spring. That includes the suspension and brakes, which are vital to your safety. Even if you get them checked regularly, and especially if you don't, you should be listening for grinding or squeaking sounds, or noticing if your car pulls to one side, or if the brake pedal goes closer to the floor. Get these checked right away because the longer you keep driving, the more expensive these repairs can become.

A spring checkup will include checking the coolant, which should be clean and at the right strength for hot weather. Have the battery checked, especially if it's more than three years old. If it's weak, replace it now, rather than after that morning when you are in a hurry and your car won't start.

The technician will also check the engine belts and hoses, which consistently cycle through hotter and colder temperatures, especially in winter, which can make them brittle. If they break, you are stranded. This is also the time to ensure that all air conditioning components are working properly. And if you are due for an oil change, a switch to summer-weight oil will help to protect your engine when outside temperatures soar.

Wiper blades don't last forever, so put on a new set for spring. If you have bought expensive winter blades, put them in storage — like winter tires, they are made from a special rubber compound, and will wear out faster in the heat.

Finally, "de-junk" the trunk. If you have carried shovels, sand, or other winter emergency items all season, leave them in the garage, since extra weight takes extra fuel to move it around.

Tires. Roll into spring

RICHARD WOODBURY
For Metro

While spring arrives on a specific day, there is no specific day that is best to take the winter tires off your vehicle. The best bet, though, is to change them once the temperature averages 7 C and above.

Once the winter tires are off, you will need to find a place to store them.

"I recommend indoors," said Zeth Brooks, the assistant manager at Scotia Tire in Halifax.

If you can't store them inside, winter tires can be kept outside under the right conditions.

"Just keep them out of the sun," said Daren Coates, the manager of Value Tire in Regina.

The tires should be shielded from the sun because it can cause weather cracking, which causes the rubber to lose its elasticity and allows surface cracks to appear. To prevent this, winter tires stored outside should be wrapped in a tarp or stored in a large deck bin.

If you are looking for new spring and summer tires to put on the vehicle, there are many options to consider. Ultimately, the way the vehicle is being used will dictate what kind of tire to use.

Pressure tactics

- Zeth Brooks, the assistant manager at Scotia Tire in Halifax, has a word of advice for drivers: "I recommend checking your tire pressure once a week."
- Doing so will help improve the vehicle's fuel economy, reduce wear and tear on the tire and improve performance.

A mileage tire is a good option for somebody who uses their vehicle simply to get from point A to point B. A performance tire is great for the demanding driver looking for maximum performance.

"You won't get many miles out if it, but it sticks like glue and allows you to corner," Brooks said.

In other words, the trade-off between the two is tire life versus tire performance.

If you have been using all-season tires over the winter, you should take the vehicle in to have the tires inspected, rotated and tire pressure checked.

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Sure sign of spring

Damage from a pothole can lead to an array of problems, such as bending your tire rims, destroying your tire and messing up a vehicle's alignment. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

What goes bump on the roads? Jarring potholes are a leading cause of headaches for drivers

RICHARD WOODBURY
For Metro

It is said death and taxes are the only two certainties in life. In Canada, you can add potholes to that list.

Sadly, there is only one way to avoid pothole damage.

"I guess avoiding potholes is the best thing," said Josh Phair, a service adviser with Taylor Volkswagen in Regina.

In a recent media release, the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) offered some driving tips to minimize damage from potholes. The most important tip is to leave lots of room in front of your vehicle so you have good sight of what is ahead.

If a collision is inevitable, there are some things you should do.

"Never hit your brakes before encountering a pothole," the IBC said. "This can actually cause more damage to your vehicle."

As well, when you hit a pothole, be sure to hold the steering wheel tightly.

"Hitting a pothole with a loose grip can cause you to lose control of your vehicle," the IBC said.

Damage from a pothole can lead to an array of problems, such as bending your tire rims, destroying your tire and messing up a vehicle's alignment. If a vehicle has been damaged by a pothole, it's better to have the problem looked at sooner rather than later.

"If there is actual damage and you keep on driving, it could cause additional damage," said Fred Mina, the co-owner of Master Auto in Halifax, an auto repair shop and used car dealer.

"It could wear your tires or make you pull your car to one side more than another, or it could steer bad."

While unlikely, you may be able to get reimbursed by your municipality as a result of damage caused to your vehicle by a pothole, so be sure to find out what the service repair standards and claims procedures are.

Warning signs of pothole damage

- According to the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC), some consequences from pothole damage include a reoccurring loss of tire air pressure, noticeable bends or dents in the wheel rims, and a vibration in the seats or the vehicle's wheel. If you are experiencing any of these, take the vehicle in to have it looked over.

Vehicle interior. Shine starts here

While many drivers are keen to get their cars shining as bright as possible on the outside, many neglect to clean the inside. Why let dirt and grunge get in the way of a sunny, spring day?

We spend a lot of time in our cars so if the interior isn't clean, it not only impacts how it looks, or how you feel in it, but it affects the overall value, as well.

This spring, the management at Autoglym recommends the following tips to clean and protect car interiors:

Shampoo throughout. This will keep it smelling great and will also help preserve the condition of its fabric upholstery, carpet, and hard surfaces. During the winter, external materials are easily transferred into a car's interior, such as salt, sand and other winter grime. These can be equally damaging to the inside as they can be to the outside, and can eat away the inner surfaces of your car.

Deal with the problem spots immediately. Don't leave cleaning dirt, spilled drinks or food until later, as these problem spots will become harder to remove the longer you leave them. Attending to food and drink spills quickly also reduces potential bacteria growth and unpleasant smells.

Get in the habit of cleaning regularly. Unfortunately, once leather, plastic or rubber cracks as a result of overt dryness, there is very little that can be done. This is why regular maintenance and moisturizing is so important — you want to prevent the cracks from initially happening, and from spreading if they are already there.

Get into a regular habit of cleaning your vehicle's interior. LSANTILLI/SHUTTERSTOCK

Heading into spring, your car's upholstery and interior are at greater risk of being damaged since excessive exposure to the spring sunshine can affect the interior, causing it to quickly age and dry out.

NEWS CANADA

Exercise safety on the roads

After a long and brutal winter across Canada, many drivers will be keen to get away on a spring road trip. But experts say you should adjust for seasonal driving conditions to avoid accidents.

MaryAnn Kempe, vice-president at Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI), says melting snow, ice and thawing ground creates wet and slippery roads, which creates dangerous driving conditions.

"In many situations, drivers need to adjust quickly to stay safe," she said. "Driving according to road conditions could be a life-saving decision. We encourage motorists to exercise road safety. When there's ice and snow, slow down. It could save a life."

Thousands of drivers collide with each other, with trees and with other objects each spring. Mostly, it's because drivers don't adjust to the new season.

In wet conditions, the average stopping distance for most automobiles is twice what it is on a dry road. Poor visibility caused by dirty windshields makes it more dangerous.

MPI offers the following spring driving tips to avoid having to call your insurer:

- Slow down and leave extra distance between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you. It takes longer to stop or adjust on wet, dirty roads. In particular, don't follow large trucks or busses closely. The spray from their wheels will dirty your windshield and reduce your visibility.
- Replace old or brittle windshield wipers. Worn wipers won't clear water and grit from your windshield, which causes streaking and smearing that could dangerously obstruct your view.
- Make sure your running lights or headlights are on when driving on dark, overcast, or foggy days.
- Stay in the middle lanes as much as possible. Water tends to pool in the curb lanes.

JON TATTRIE

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Scrub away winter grime

JIL MCINTOSH
For Metro

Cleaning your vehicle after a long winter will not only make it look better, but it may also help it last longer. WILLIAM PERUGINI/SHUTTERSTOCK

After a long winter, your car needs a good scrubbing.

You may have run it through the car wash every now and again, but now it needs a thorough spring cleaning. It will not only look better, but it may even help it last longer, too.

The first step is to clean the underside, which has spent the winter picking up salt, sand, or grime. Using a pressure washer or coin-operated car wash, point the wand under the vehicle, starting at one end and working your way around. Don't rush the job — you need to spray each area until the water runs clear.

Wash the body by thoroughly rinsing it with water, soaping it with a soft mitt or sponge, and then rinsing again. As you go over it, look for any scratches or chips, which should be touched up promptly to prevent rust. Finish by drying with microfibre cloths or a chamois, and then protect the paint with a coat of good quality wax. Scrub the wheels and use a wheel protector product to help prevent brake dust buildup, which will eat into the finish and be impossible to remove.

Vacuum the carpets, getting under the seats and up under the dash. If the carpet is salt stained, mix equal parts vinegar and water in a spray bottle, spray the stain, let it sit for a minute, and then blot with a clean towel. If that's not enough, try a commercial carpet cleaner. Let the carpets dry thoroughly to avoid rust on the floor or seat brackets.

Use a spray cleaner and cloth to clean the dash, centre console, and cupholders, and glass cleaner with paper towels for the windows. Vacuum the seats, and if you have leather upholstery, use leather cleaner and then follow up with leather conditioner.

More cleaning tips

- Spray a cloth with cleaner to clean the rearview mirror — spraying the mirror directly could get fluid in it.
- Never use a dropped wash sponge without thoroughly rinsing it since any grit on it will scratch your paint.
- Don't spray vinyl protector on your steering wheel, which can make it dangerously slippery.

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Keep it fun. Pamper your vehicle

JIL MCINTOSH
For Metro

It's always nice to start fresh with a new season, which can mean some new goodies for your car, too.

Some drivers focus on safety, while others are practical, but don't forget to pick up some fun ones, too.

After a whole winter with the windows closed, your vehicle may smell a little musty. After vacuuming the carpets — be sure you get anything that might have spilled under the seats — an air freshener should make things better. You can go for the iconic little pine tree, but one that clips onto your air vent will do a better job of dispensing the scent and making your car smell nicer.

Winter is hard on wiper blades, which are essential for safe vision. If your blades leave smears, or the ends are torn, treat your car to a new set. Don't forget the rear blade on hatchbacks, SUVs or minivans. Wipers have to tackle the grime and grit kicked up by tires, and they wear quickly because of that.

Buy yourself a tire gauge. Having your tires at the right pressure helps them last longer and saves gas — if a tire is five pounds per square inch low, it could be chewing up an extra two per cent of your fuel. Choose between a dial, stick, or digital gauge.

There are some neat vehicle cleaners on the market, including vinyl wipes, leather upholstery conditioners, waterless car wash, tire dressing, and sponges and wipes that remove splattered bugs and bird droppings. These can "bake on" and eat into the finish, so you want to get them off as soon as possible.

And have some fun with your car, too. You can add a new gearshift knob, floor mats, or to really shake it up, kits that give the look of sporty carbon fibre.

Bug splatter sponges, left, can help keep your vehicle's finish spotless. An air freshener, top, will breathe new life into your interior, a carbon fibre kit, right, can make your vehicle look more sporty, and new windshield wipers are a must for the spring.

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Rust never sleeps on your vehicle exterior

JON TATTRIE
For Metro

Winter is tough on cars, with abrasive materials like salt, stones and sand, and the battering from potholes.

Adam Burke, manager of winter accessories and auto body repair at Canadian Tire, says the barrage of small, hard materials penetrates a vehicle's paint and leaves them vulnerable to rust when warm weather arrives.

Burke said you should start by thoroughly washing your car and checking painted surfaces for chips and scratches.

"You often don't realize the damage your car has incurred over the winter until all of the snow, salt and dirt are removed," he said.

Alloy wheels

- If you don't change your tires in the spring and use alloy wheels in the winter, perform a thorough cleaning with a product designed for the task to remove any salt and brake dust that has built up over the winter.

When you take off your winter tires, check your suspension and brakes.

"Over the winter, the constant buildup and breakdown of snow and ice, combined with road treatments like salt or sand, can lead to the formation of rust on your vehicle's suspension and braking systems," he said.

"This can lead to seizing and diminished strength of the metal in these heavy wear and high-impact components."

Also check your wipers and windshield. Inspect your car's outer seals, especially the weather stripping around the doors and windows. Are there cracks?

"This can cause the mechanisms inside your door panels, like your window lift motors or locking mechanism, to corrode," Burke said.

Fix the most dangerous items first — your suspension and braking systems, for example. Potholes are bad enough without faulty suspension systems exacerbating the damage.

DRIVEN AUTOMOTIVE

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When you take your vehicle in for a tuneup, ask the service adviser to get the vehicle ready for spring. KZENON/SHUTTERSTOCK

It's more than changing tires

RICHARD WOODBURY
For Metro

For many drivers, getting their vehicle ready for spring means just taking the winter tires off or rotating their all-season tires. In fact, they should be doing more.

David Giles, a faculty member of the Nova Scotia Community College's (NSCC) transportation department, recommends when you take your vehicle in for a spring tuneup, ask the service adviser to get the vehicle ready for spring.

"That triggers a different type of service," he said, adding they will be more thorough in their inspection and will also examine things such as the condition of the battery, air conditioning system, and belts in the vehicle.

This is also a good time to get an oil and filter change because oil life decreases in colder temperatures.

Having the brakes inspected is also a must since road salt can build up on the brake calipers, so it's important they get cleaned and lubricated.

It is also important to get the exhaust system and alignment examined.

While these tasks are largely meant to be done by the mechanic, there are many things you can do to get your vehicle ready for spring. One of the most important things is to give it a thorough wash, being sure to clean the underside to get rid of the salt, which has likely built up.

You should also examine the fluid levels. If the vehicle needs brake fluid or engine oil, this can likely be an indication of a problem.

Checking to make sure the headlights, signal lights and brake lights are functioning is also a must.

"Many of them, a person can change the bulb at home," said Jim Kerr, the program head of the automotive service technician program at the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology.

NBA

Knicks introduce president Jackson

Phil Jackson has returned to the New York Knicks as their team president.

The Knicks announced Jackson's hiring Tuesday at a news conference in the lobby of Madison Square Garden, where a giant sign reading "Welcome Home Phil" was overhead and shirts with the No. 18 Jackson wore as a player lined the merchandise store.

Jackson signed a five-year contract that reportedly will pay him at least $12 million annually and said he will spend significant time in New York.

"This is the best place to play basketball," Jackson said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

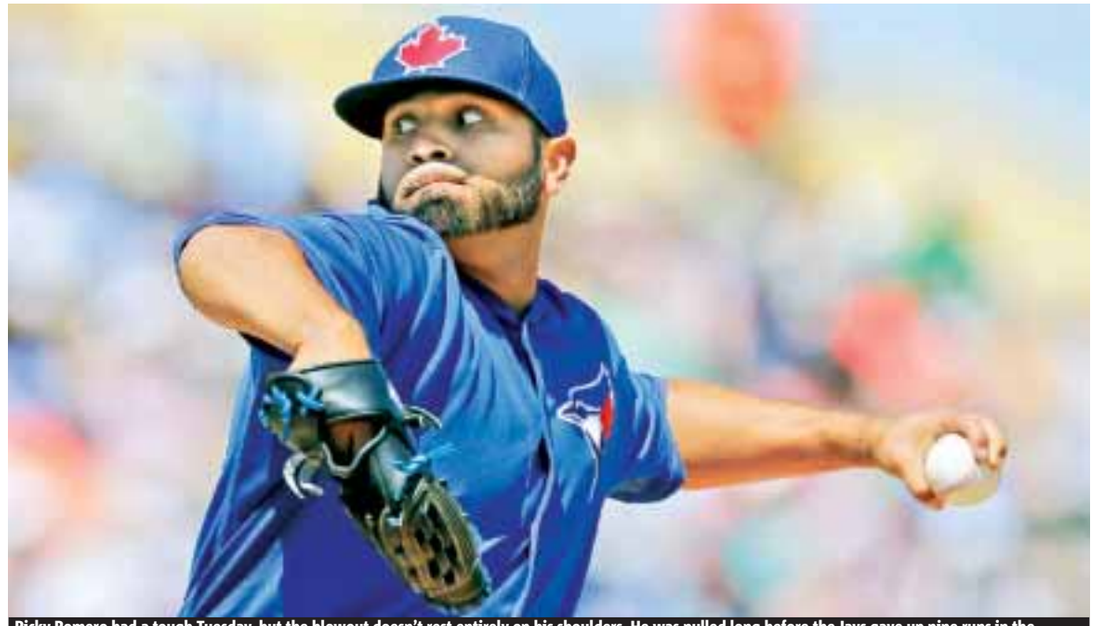
Knicks team president Phil Jackson GETTY IMAGES

Spring training

Harvey still hopes for 2014 return

No matter what the New York Mets think, Matt Harvey is convinced he can pitch at some point this season.

The Mets ace had elbow ligament-replacement surgery Oct. 22 and hasn't thrown a baseball from more than 60 feet off flat ground. New York doesn't expect him to return until 2015. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Ricky Romero had a tough Tuesday, but the blowout doesn't rest entirely on his shoulders. He was pulled long before the Jays gave up nine runs in the fifth inning to give the Tigers a 13-0 lead. CARLOS OSORIO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Romero unravels in Jays' blowout loss

Spring training. Entire Toronto pitching staff serves up buffet of taters to Tigers

Morrow falls to fifth in rotation

Right-hander Brandon Morrow, who started last season second in the Jays pitching rotation, will open the 2014 campaign as the Jays' fifth starter.

- Toronto manager John Gibbons says the move to the fifth spot is partially to give Morrow more time to get ready.

Ricky Romero's comeback bid hit another road bump Tuesday in an ugly 18-4 Jays loss to a Detroit Tigers split squad.

The Toronto plan was for Romero and Marcus Stroman to combine for nine innings, with none of Toronto's established bullpen members along for the ride. Instead the Tigers treated Romero, Jeremy Jeffress, Stroman and Marcus Walden like batting practice pitchers.

Romero gave up a two-run homer to Austin Jackson in the second after hitting a Tiger to put him on base and yielded another run in an unsightly third inning that featured a triple, four walks and two wild pitches. It could have been far worse but two Tigers were caught stealing in the inning.

The left-hander exited after 2 2/3 innings, giving way to Jeffress. Unofficially Romero threw 57 pitches, 23 for strikes on a sunny day in Lakeland, Fla.

"We've taken too many steps forward to dwell on this," Romero said afterwards.

Romero and Jeffress walked eight between them in the first four innings.

Things continued to fall apart when Stroman gave up a walk, four singles and a grand slam homer to Don Kelly in a fifth inning that went from bad to worse. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL pass-interference rules under review

The CFL might become the first league to allow pass interference to be reviewed by video. TOM SZCZERBOWSKI/GETTY IMAGES

The CFL is considering whether to make pass interference subject to video review, the league announced Tuesday.

Under a proposal to be voted upon Thursday by the league's rules committee, coaches would be allowed to challenge both called and potential defensive pass interference fouls under certain conditions.

If passed, the CFL would become the first football league to subject pass interference to video review.

"This is more than innovative," Glen Johnson, the CFL's vice-president of officiating, said in a statement. "In the world of officiating, for all sports, it's revolutionary.

"Leagues have been reluctant to subject 'judgment calls' to video review, and pass interference in football is the ultimate 'judgment call,' because it involves so many subjective elements. It will be interesting to see if the committee approves it, and whether our board of governors, which is our ultimate authority on rules, also ratifies it."

Under the proposal, a team could use any or all of its coaches' challenges to challenge a called or potential pass interference foul up to the final three minutes of a game. In the final three minutes and overtime, a club could only challenge such a call or non-call once, and only if it still has an unused challenge and a timeout remaining.

The rules committee is considering the command centre automatically reviewing all turnovers and allowing it to detect illegal participation during a play. THE CANADIAN PRESS

DRIVE

Hey, that sinkhole eight my Corvettes!

Every cloud ... The positive side of this story is that museum attendance is up and three of the cars have been salvaged so far

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

The sinkhole at the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Kentucky, which swallowed eight historic Corvettes last month, was certainly bad news for Corvette fans and the museum. But museum attendance and interest is up since the sinkhole, so not all bad I guess… People are obviously fascinated with the spectacle and drama of a sinkhole. Throw in some super-special Corvettes, and suddenly you have a major-league attraction on your hands.

One report I read also noted that museum patrons are even fascinated with all the "crane action" going on. The cranes are part of the efforts to extricate the fallen 'Vettes.

Big cranes. Cool sports cars. Big sinkhole. Now that's a museum even a 10-year-old ADD boy could love. I wonder if they're taking notes over at the Royal Ontario, Glenbow, and National Gallery; maybe even contemplating how one or two of their more esoteric exhibits might benefit from a similar sinkhole makeover.

The 1962 Corvette was the first to get rescued, lifted out of the sinkhole nose first. Engineers then successfully extracted the 2009 Corvette ZR-1 "Blue Devil" and a 1993 40th anniversary model Corvette. All three were in surprisingly good shape, considering.

The remaining cars had more stuff fall on top of them and are more heavily damaged. As of this writing, three 'Vettes are still in the sinkhole: a one-off ZR1 Spyder; the 2001 Mallett Hammer Z06, and the 1.5 millionth Corvette.

Construction crews need to continue to stabilize the walls of the sinkhole before attempting to vacuum out the dirt from around those remaining cars. But they are sure to be rescued at some point, and then they will likely join the other "survivors" in a special display, before they all get made new again. The sinkhole is in the Skydome, a separate structure from the main museum. While the Skydome is off-limits for now, the main museum remains open.

There are two adjoining walls between the buildings. One wall features a video monitor, which shows live webcam footage of the work going on in the Skydome.

The other features a plexiglass viewing area. Sinkholes are not uncommon in Kentucky, one of several U.S. states especially prone to them, by virtue of the Karst topography, a landscape largely formed by the dissolving action of water on soft bedrock (usually limestone).

Corvettes have been made exclusively in Kentucky, at the Bowling Green Assembly Plant, since 1981. I guess it was only a matter of time then, before those two great Kentucky forces collided.

The Sinkholed Eight

- 1962 black Corvette
- 1984 PPG Pace Car
- 1992 white 1 millionth Corvette
- 1993 ZR1 Spyder
- 1993 40th anniversary Corvette
- 2001 Mallett Hammer Z06 Corvette
- 2009 ZR1 "Blue Devil"
- 2009 white 1.5 millionth Corvette

The 1962 Corvette was the first one out of the sinkhole, and sustained less damage than one might have expected for such a mishap. Eight museum Corvettes took the plunge. Three are still down there. GENERAL MOTORS

Mexico wins in Free Trade Agreement

Driving Force. Low wages and lower parts costs is the reason automakers are flocking to, and building steadily in, the Latin-American nation

JIL MCINTOSH
Drive@metronews.ca

Twenty years ago, Canada, the United States and Mexico entered into the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which eliminated almost all tariffs and trade restrictions between the three countries, including vehicle production. But two decades later, it looks like Mexico ended up getting the most out of the arrangement.

"While Canadian vehicle production has increased marginally from where it was 20 years ago, it tails the tripling that we've seen occurring in Mexico," says Carlos Gomes, senior economist and auto industry specialist for Scotiabank.

"We have historically accounted for about 16 per cent of overall North American vehicle production, but in recent years, our share of investment has declined to about 5 per cent."

While the domestic automakers—Chrysler, Ford and General Motors—originally made up the bulk of production in Mexico, Japanese and European automakers now account for the majority of Mexico's output.

Companies such as Volkswagen, Nissan, Honda, and Mazda already build or are about to start production in Mexico, while Audi is constructing a new plant that is expected to turn out its first vehicle in 2016, and BMW is in negotiations for a new facility.

Part of the reason is wages: Mexico's labour costs are approximately 20 per cent lower than in the rest of North America. However, another important factor is that Mexico has free trade agreements with some 40 countries, which allows automakers to build their cars there and then ship them duty-free to global markets. This includes models sold in Canada and the U.S., which not only eliminates potential tariffs, but cuts down on transportation costs, since the vehicles don't have to be shipped from overseas.

"The Mexican plants go into areas that ours don't," Gomes says. "That's a big difference. The Canadian plants export almost exclusively to the U.S., whereas in Mexico, they export to the U.S. but more than 20 per cent of their shipments are outside of the NAFTA region. It's these (markets) in particular that are growing at a faster pace."

The domestic automakers originally built factories in Mexico to make parts at lower cost that were then shipped north to car plants for final assembly. In 1998, Mexico passed Canada as the top parts supplier to the U.S. assembly lines.

Today, each vehicle built in the United States now contains approximately $4,000 in Mexican-built parts, but only about $1,500 in parts from Canadian facilities.

Facts

- **Manufacturing.** Auto production makes up 15 per cent of Mexico's overall manufacturing, but it is only 10 per cent of Canada's total, and is 9 per cent in the United States.
- **Imported parts.** Some 23 per cent of all auto parts imported by the U.S. came from Mexico when NAFTA began, but now it's 34 per cent.
- **Big money.** Carmakers invested $2.9 billion into Mexico's automotive industry in 2013, almost double what the country received on average each year over the last decade.

Volkswagen staff celebrate the 10 millionth car built in Mexico. PHOTO VOLKSWAGEN

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
If you make a wish over the next two or three days, it may come true. With the Sun moving into your birth sign tomorrow, marking the start of a new solar year, you are likely to get whatever you ask for.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Whatever information you may have that others do not you should treat it like gold dust today. The less others know about what you are up to, the more you will benefit.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
If you play your cards right over the next few days, there is every chance that some of your big dreams will start to come true. The dividing line between fantasy and reality is quite narrow.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Important people are watching you closely, so make sure they like what they see. The Sun's move into the career area of your chart tomorrow will energize you and make you more ambitious.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Make sure facts are on your side if you want to make an issue out of something. Remember, it's not enough to tell others that they are doing it wrong. They also need to be shown how to do it right.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If your sixth sense tells you that something isn't quite right, listen to it and refrain from doing anything that might lead you down the wrong path — especially financially.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
As the Sun is about to move into the relationship area of your chart you should make more of an effort to get along with the people around you, even those you don't like.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You need to start thinking about cutting back on work. The past few weeks have been a time of great activity and your momentum will keep you going for a while yet, but your body needs a break.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
No matter how difficult the past few weeks have been, your affairs will improve dramatically as of tomorrow. Cheer up and stop acting as if the world is about to end.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The Sun's change of signs tomorrow means you can come to grips with a family issue that has been causing you plenty of grief. Let loved ones know what you think and how you feel and invite them to be honest with you as well.

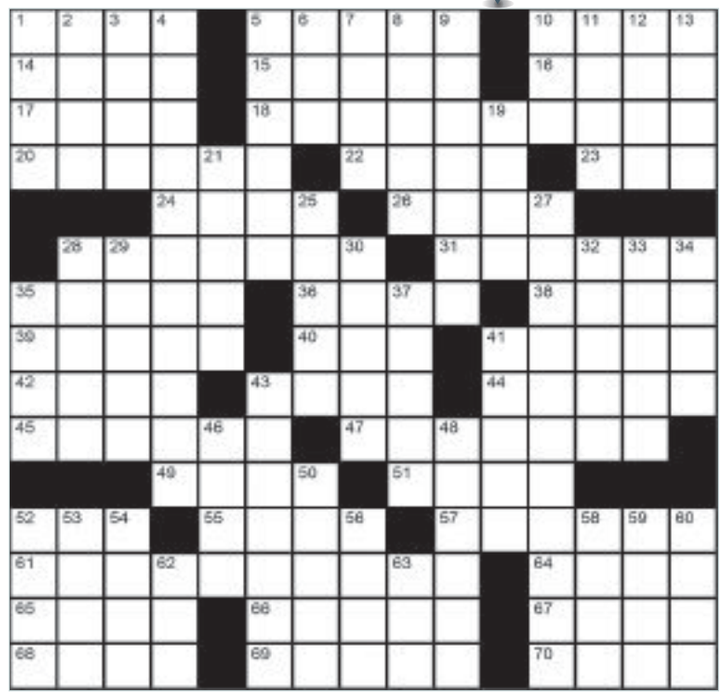
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The more you are on the move over the next few days, the more likely it is you will find answers to the questions you have been asking. You may not be thrilled by some of the things you learn but the truth is about facts, not feelings.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Good news concerning your finances is coming your way in the next few days. You won't get something for nothing but you'll at least have more cash in your pocket. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

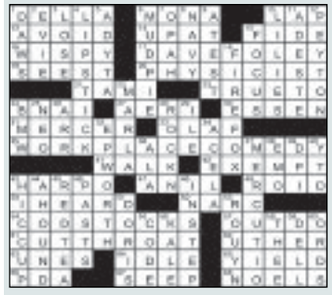
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Ointment
5. House's behind-the-walls sights
10. __ Lake, Alberta
14. Parkay, for one
15. Totally ticked
16. Cleaving tool
17. Sham
18. "This Hour Has 22 Minutes" cast member: 2 wds.
20. Turn to for trusty support: 2 wds.
22. Website's main page
23. Stylish sash
24. Glass-making stuff
26. Fly elegantly
28. Venezuela's capital
31. Takes the pen's 'lid' off
35. Full range
36. "__ Lap" (1983)
38. Vegan's no-no
39. __ and beyond
40. Geological period
41. Book part
42. Wine, in Italy
43. What 'i' has on top, _ __
44. Sound-making cow
45. Immerse
47. Terri Clark hit: "Poor, Poor __ Me"
49. Chesterfield
51. Jan & Dean's "__ City"
52. Perform
55. Ms. Del Rey
57. Peanut butter brand
61. 1990 Kiefer Sutherland movie in which Julia Roberts also starred
64. Concern
65. Glowing light
66. Countrified
67. All square
68. Stack of paper
69. Gradient
70. George W. Bush, et al.

Down
1. 1922 Nobel Prize in Physics winner, Niels __
2. Cosmetic cream's content
3. Actress, Sharon __
4. "King of Spain": Hit tune for what Canadian band?: 2 wds.
5. Checked blanket dining experience
6. Mr. Levin
7. Way
8. Set of values
9. British actress Jane
10. Corp. bigwig concerned with money
11. "Deal __ __ Deal"
12. Singer/songwriter Lisa
13. Mr. Arnaz
19. Former PM Mr. Chretien
21. Pontificate
25. Recorded
27. Red coat wearing police person: acr. + word
28. Log abode
29. Surrounded by
30. Salt-n-Pepa song
32. Friends to 'and sometimes Y'
33. __ truck
34. 'Trick' suffix
35. Handed
37. 'Nay' sides in debates
41. Insincere smile
43. Matters
46. __ around (Lounge)
48. Bitty brawl
50. Overturn
52. From way out there
53. Crossword __
54. Charlottetown-born singer Ms. MacLean
56. Prefix with 'dynamic'
58. Finish a road
59. Get set
60. Cravings
62. Glasgow topper
63. Knock

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

9		8		2		5	1	
	1	6						
			1					7
2		5	8					
1			2		3			6
					7	1		8
5					4			
						3	8	
	3	7		1		9		4

Yesterday's Sudoku

5	4	2	1	3	7	6	9	8
9	8	6	5	2	4	1	7	3
7	1	3	8	6	9	2	4	5
2	7	5	4	1	8	9	3	6
6	3	1	9	7	2	5	8	4
4	9	8	6	5	3	7	2	1
3	5	7	2	8	6	4	1	9
8	6	4	7	9	1	3	5	2
1	2	9	3	4	5	8	6	7

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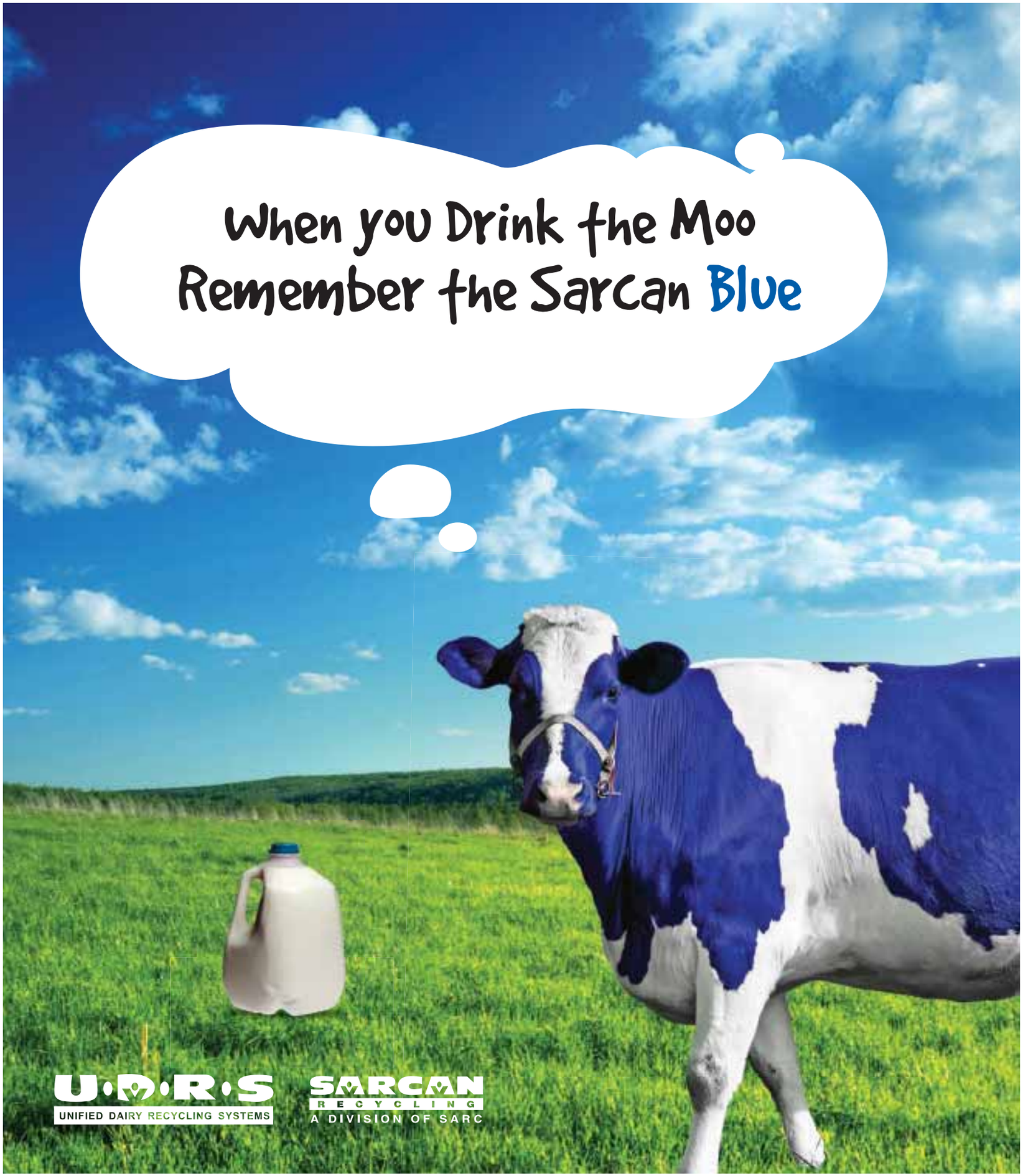
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RECYCLING
A DIVISION OF SARC